



First Presbyterian Church of Athens

In response to God's grace, the mission of First Presbyterian Church is to create a community where people seek the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, rejoice in worship, and go forth sharing the love of Christ with Athens and the world!

September 5, 2021
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING IN THE NAME OF GOD

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us. As we enter a holy space this morning, please silence your cell phone. Consult an usher if you need a personal hearing device, large-print bulletin or large-print hymnal.

Greeting

Psalm 118:24

This is the day the Lord has made; **let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Prelude

Land of Rest

Pamela Decker

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Song of Gathering

LLANFAIR

**Come, behold! the feast of heaven Alleluia!
has to mortal flesh been given, Alleluia!
Hear the Word of God declared: Alleluia!
“Come! the banquet is prepared.” Alleluia!**

Call to Worship

The eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
The lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.
The burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

*Hymn 466

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

You love us with open arms, O God. Forgive us when we do not put your love into practice: when we do not challenge the injustice around us; when we are not generous with the gifts we have to share; when we are slow to compassion and quick to judgment; when we contribute to the brokenness of the world instead of helping to make it whole. Forgive us, O God, of the ways we fall short. Free us to try again, and let your love lead the way.

*Silent Prayer

Lord, have mercy. **Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon

**Those who are able may stand.*

A special word of

welcome: thank you for being with us for worship this morning. We are delighted and hope that you will join us again next Sunday.

Please observe the local indoor mask ordinance. If you need a mask, please see an usher.

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad, making note of new and old friends, check in on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram (@firstpresathensga).

The text *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* comes from an eighteen-stanza hymn Charles Wesley to mark the first anniversary of his life-changing conversion experience. The tune AZMON, an arrangement of a German melody, is the usual North American setting.

***Congregational Response** Hymn 579
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.

***The Peace**
Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson Isaiah 6:8-10
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson Acts 28:17-31
This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *The Rest of the Story* Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 508** *For the Bread Which You Have Broken* KINGDOM

***Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**
**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of
God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**
**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

8:45 a.m. Offertory *O Lamb of God* Johann Sebastian Bach

11:00 a.m. Offertory *O God Unseen* Mark Schweizer
O God, unseen yet ever near, thy presence may we feel;
and thus inspired with holy fear, before thine altar kneel.
Here may the faithful people know the blessings of thy love,
the streams that through the desert flow, the manna from above.
Thus may we all thy word obey, for we, O God, are thine;
and go rejoicing on our way, renewed with strength divine.

***Doxology** Hymn 592
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The author of *For the Bread Which You Have Broken*, Louis FitzGerald Benson, was the editor of several Presbyterian hymnals and one of the foremost American hymnologists of the early 20th century.

Next to the Nicene Creed, The Apostles' Creed is the most universally accepted doctrinal statement in Christendom. Although not written by apostles, it reflects the theological formulations of the first century church. Arising from an early baptismal creed, it underwent development, attaining its present form in the eighth century.

You may mail your check, set up an automatic payment of your pledge through your bank, or donate online using this QR code or at firstpresathens.org/home/giving. Thank you for your generosity.



***Prayer of Dedication**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

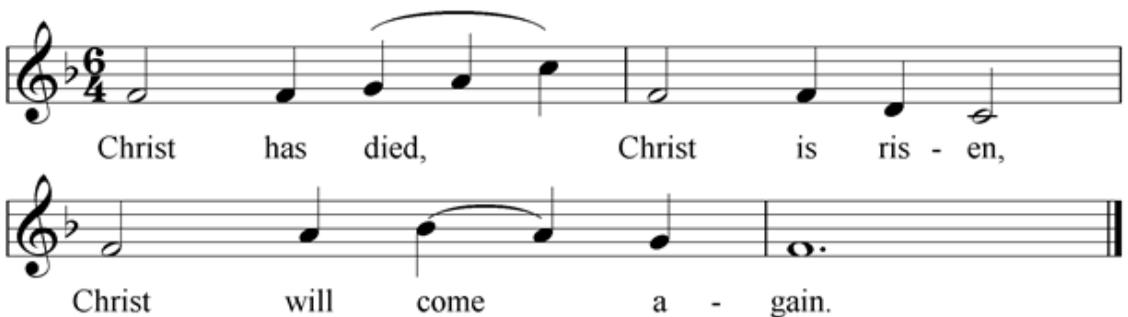
The musical setting of the communion liturgy is based on the American folk hymn LAND OF REST, arranged by American composer Richard Proulx.

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Memorial Acclamation



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en,
Christ will come a - gain.

The Great Amen



A - men, a - men, a - men.

The Lord's Prayer Hymnal, p. 16
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

***Hymn 415** *Come, Labor On* ORA LABORA

***Charge and Benediction**

***Congregational Response** Hymn 540

**God be with you till we meet again;
unseen wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

Postlude *Ora Labora* Gerre Hancock

Using Jesus' harvest imagery from John, Matthew, and Luke, the urgent text *Come, Labor On* sounds a compelling call to Christian service. The English cathedral style tune takes its name from the Benedictine motto "Prayer is work."

Texts and music for hymns and sung responses reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-714861

A special word of welcome to our guests: thank you for joining us for worship this morning. Please fill out the Fellowship Pad so that we may be in touch. We are delighted you are here and look forward to seeing you again.

Nurseries for children 4 years old and younger, available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., are located next to the Children's Ministry Suite and are accessible down the stairs in the Atrium and through the glass door. Our fully vaccinated nursery staff is excited to welcome our youngest members.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*
The Rev. Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate*
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

Lay Reader

8:45 a.m. Jim Dove
11:00 a.m. Dan Nadenicek

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Carl Bergmann, John Simpson
11:00 a.m. Kitty Donnan, Larry Jones

GREETERS

11:00 a.m. Svea Bogue, Carol McKay

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN

Paulo Santos

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Stephen Kreyenbuhl

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God.

TO AID IN WORSHIP

If you need to leave the sanctuary during the service, a live video feed is available in the Atrium and at 11:00 a.m. is on Facebook and YouTube.

Available in the Narthex or from an usher:

- **Personal hearing receivers** usable anywhere in the sanctuary
- **Large-print** hymnals, Bibles, bulletins, and hymnsheets
- **Sermons** from the previous six weeks

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office, 706-543-4338, by the Prayer Request link on our church website (firstpresathens.org) or on the prayer cards in the Fellowship Pads.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WAYS TO SERVE FORM

We invite you to fill out the updated “Ways to Serve” form, now online! Use this QR code to complete the google form or pick up a paper copy in the Atrium. From mission and outreach to worship leadership and congregational care to youth and children’s ministry, there are countless ways to get reconnected.



NAME BADGES

As more members and friends return to in person worship, we are excited to get reacquainted with one another. You can help by wearing a name tag each Sunday. Supplies will be in the Narthex and Atrium.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you would like to have offering envelopes for 2022, please e-mail Roger Burbage at rburbage@firstpresathens.org or call the church office at 706-543-4338 by **September 24**.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!

FPC recently joined Instagram. You can follow us @firstpresathensga for more information about upcoming events.

Welcome Back Party on the Porch September 12 after 11:00 a.m. service

Join us on September 12th after 11:00 a.m. worship service for our Welcome Back Party. We will gather together outside on the front porch of the church to learn about opportunities to reconnect, renew and rejoice this year. We’ll have biscuits, fruits and drinks for all. We can’t wait to see you at the Party on the Porch!

First Things for Newcomers

Sunday, September 19, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

First Things in Moses Waddel Room (3rd floor)

Child care is available upon request

First Things is an opportunity to learn about First Presbyterian Church, to meet the staff and other newcomers, and for us to have some conversations about what it means to live out our discipleship as members of Christ’s church.

Sunday, September 26, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

After attending First Things, if you’re feeling called to become a member of FPC, you’re invited to the New Member Tea to meet the session and be received into membership. The New Member Tea is informal and will be hosted by Michael and Elizabeth Earl, 193 Mell St. Athens, 30605. Children are welcome!

Sunday, October 3, 8:45 or 11:00 a.m.

New members will be introduced to the congregation during the morning worship services, and receptions will be held after both services to welcome the newest members of FPC.

If you have a conflict with one of these dates, you may arrange a make-up time and still attend the other two. Please confirm your attendance by Wednesday, **September 15** by emailing Lucy Bell Johnson at lbell@firstpresathens.org or calling the church office at 706-543-4338.

Flower Arranging Class September 23, 3:30 p.m.

Join the Flower Committee for a “Meet and Greet” in the Atrium followed by a flower arranging class in the Sanctuary with Brett Glenn Floral Design on Thursday, September 23 at 3:30 p.m. Please let us know you’re coming by emailing Lucy Bell Johnson at lbell@firstpresathens.org by **Friday, September 17**.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 5 - Communion Sunday, Food Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Nursery open for infants to age 4
- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium

Monday, September 6 - Labor Day, Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 7

- 11:30 a.m. Chair Yoga via Zoom (Zoom ID: 558-324-3907, PW: 6136)
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor
- 7:00 p.m. Circle Six, Home of Ann Dunn

Wednesday, September 8

- 9:30 a.m. Circle Seven, Staff Conference Room
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday, September 9

- 6:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting, Moses Waddel Room

Sunday, September 12

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School and Kids in the Courtyard
- 10:40 a.m. Godly Play
- 12:00 p.m. Welcome Back Party on the Porch
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group
- 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group

LOOKING AHEAD

September 19 - First Things for Newcomers Class

September 23 - Flower Committee "Meet and Greet" and Flower Arranging Class



SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 12

Sunday School Classes are available for all ages and meet 9:45-10:40 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

Director of Children's Ministries: Natalie Bishop

Nursery Coordinator: Rita Raines

Children's Ministry Suite • Infants – 5th Grade

This fall, children ages Pre-Kindergarten through 5th Grade are invited to "Kids in the Courtyard" and Godly Play on Sunday mornings while our little ones, infants – 4 years old are invited to the nursery. **For the safety of our children, we will continue Covid precautions of mask wearing, social distancing and utilizing our outdoor spaces as much as possible.*

Kids in the Courtyard, 9:45 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Children will learn and experience new ways of connecting with God outside in our lovely church courtyard. This special time together will be filled with different types of morning prayer, beautiful children's literature and Bible stories, and will conclude with a fun fellowship time and feast as we get ready for Godly Play.

Godly Play, 10:40 a.m.-12 noon

Children are invited to Godly Play during the 11:00 a.m. worship hour this fall. After safely worshipping from home this past year, we would like to take time this fall to help our children reacclimate to being back in church. The Godly Play method and routine does a wonderful job of supporting children in this way! Godly Play is an innovative way of teaching and learning that helps children "discover" who God is rather than being "told" who God is. The structure and routine of Godly Play offers children a safe space to explore, connect, wonder, and worship God.

Nursery, 8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Children will enjoy playtime, story time, and snack time with their church friends in the Nursery Playroom and outside on the playground.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

Dell Dunn Christian Issues • Room 308

An in-depth study and discussion of scripture – with a chapter-by-chapter reading and discussion of Acts of the Apostles.

Coordinator: Susan Landrum (slandrum@uga.edu)

Inquirers • Moses Waddel Room

Thoughtful introspection and lively group discussion covering contemporary issues and daily Christian living, with guest speakers or DVD studies.

Facilitators: Carl Bergmann (cberg@ccrc.uga.edu), Carla Buss (cbuss@uga.edu), Larry Jones (lfjones@uga.edu)

New Voices • Room 310

Discussion guided by *Women In the Bible*, by Jaime Clark-Soles. Led by: Lewis Hudgins (lewisahudgins@gmail.com)

Parents in the PIT • The Pit

This new class is an invitation for parents of children and youth to come down to the PIT for a time of fellowship and support.

Coordinator: Kim Ness (kness@firstpresathens.org)

W. D. Hooper • Room 309

The "oldest" Sunday School class at First Pres will continue to focus on a Bible Study format.

Led by: Jerris Hayes (jhayefirstpres@gmail.com), Richard Lane (rlane@uga.edu)

Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class

Bride's Room, Tinsley Stern

Open and honest discussion in a nonjudgmental atmosphere about various aspects of Christianity.

Contacts: Ian Hardin (ianhardin1@gmail.com), Jim Scanlon (jjscanlon@yahoo.com)

Women's Bible Class • Room 301

Reading and discussion of the Gospel of Mark.

Contact: Wanda Wilcox (wwilcox@uga.edu)

SUNDAYS FOR YOUTH

Director of Youth Ministries: Kim Ness

We are excited to welcome our 6th-12th graders back to the PIT, located on the basement level. For more information, please visit www.fpcathenspit.com.

SUNDAY MORNINGS 9:45 - 10:40 a.m.

This fall, youth will serve as leaders in Children's Ministry for Kids in the Courtyard. They will help with storytelling, feasting, and sharing love with our younger church members.

Confirmation

Open to current 9th graders, confirmation classes will be held during Sunday School starting late Fall. Confirmation Sunday is scheduled for March 27, 2022. Please contact Kim Ness (kness@firstpresathens.org) to sign up.

SUNDAY EVENINGS

Taking advantage of the space outside the PIT and the lower parking garage, youth group will meet outside this Fall. Evenings will be filled with opportunities for fellowship and fun as we build our youth community. Using the Narrative Lectionary, we'll explore what it means to be an active, Christian teen in today's changing world.

Middle School Youth Group, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

High School Youth Group, 6:00-7:30 p.m. (dinner provided)

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

466

AZMON CM

Charles Wesley, 1738; alt.

Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828
Arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing My dear Re-deem-er's praise,
2. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, That bids our sor - rows cease;
3. Christ breaks the power of reign - ing sin, And sets the pris - oner free;
4. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, As - sist me to pro - claim,

The glo - ries of my God and King, The tri - umphs of God's grace!
'Tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'Tis life, and health, and peace.
Christ's blood can make the sin - ful clean, Christ's blood a - vailed for me.
To spread through all the earth a - broad The hon - ors of Thy name.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing'. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/2 time signature. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with four numbered verses. The first verse is the main text, and the second verse is a shorter version. The third and fourth verses are longer and more descriptive. The score ends with a double bar line.

508 For the Bread Which You Have Broken

KINGDOM 8.7.8.7

Louis FitzGerald Benson, 1924; alt.

V. Earle Copés, 1959

1. For the bread which You have bro - ken, For the wine which You have poured,
2. By this prom - ise that You love us, By Your gift of peace re - stored,
3. With the saints who now a - dore You Seat-ed at the heav-en-ly board,
4. In Your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; In our hearts keep watch and ward;

For the words which You have spo-ken, Now we give You thanks, O Lord.
By Your call to heav-en a - bove us, Hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
May the church still wait - ing for You Keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
In the world to which You send us. Let Your king-dom come, O Lord.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'For the Bread Which You Have Broken'. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/2 time signature. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with four numbered verses. The first verse is the main text, and the second verse is a shorter version. The third and fourth verses are longer and more descriptive. The score ends with a double bar line.

Come, Labor On

415

ORA LABORA 4.10.10.4

Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1859; rev. 1863; alt.

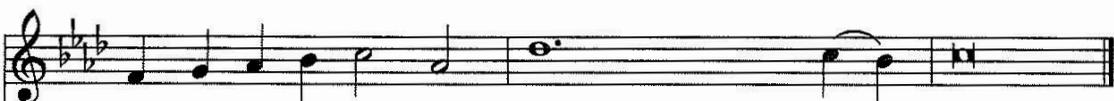
Thomas Tertius Noble, 1918



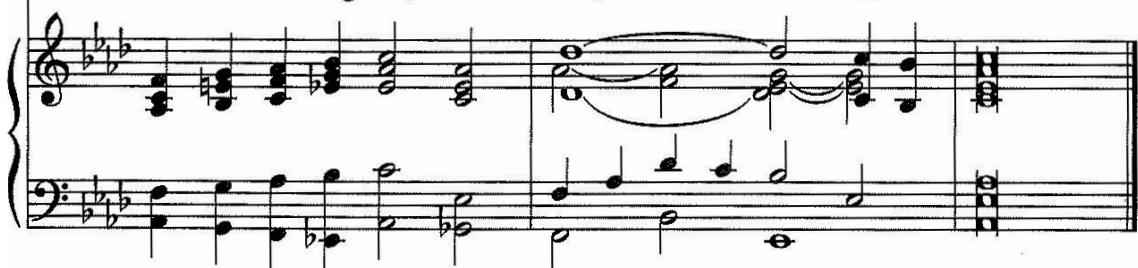
1. Come, la-bor on. Who dares stand i - dle on the har - vest plain
2. Come, la-bor on. Claim the high call - ing an - gels can - not share;
3. Come, la-bor on. A - way with gloom - y doubts and faith - less fear!
4. Come, la-bor on. No time for rest, till glows the west - ern sky,



While all a - round us waves the gold - en grain? And to each ser - vant
To young and old the gos - pel glad - ness bear. Re - deem the time; its
No arm so weak but may do ser - vice here; Though fee - ble a - gents,
Till the long shad - ows o'er our path - way lie, And a glad sound comes



does the Mas - ter say, "Go work to - day."
hours too swift - ly fly. The night draws nigh.
may we all ful - fill God's righ - teous will.
with the set - ting sun, "Well done, well done!"



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Kitty Donnan, Clerk of Session
Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor

CLASS OF 2021

Jennifer Walden Abbott
Michelle Clendenen-Shaw
Elizabeth Earl
Ed Ferguson
Rob Haire
Grace Lu
Chris Pope
Mixon Robinson
Rosemary Stancil

CLASS OF 2022

Karen Burg
Kitty Donnan
Larry Jones
Andy Jordan
Jimbo LaBoon
Tom Landrum
Beverly Phares
Smith Wilson

CLASS OF 2023

Sarah Bryan
Judy Burch
Kent Burel
Rod Canfield
Melinda DeMaria
Jim Dove
Mark Hopkins
Matt Jones
Robyn McDonald
Keith Oelke

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor* (ryan@firstpresathens.org)
Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor* (cstrickland@firstpresathens.org)
The Rev. Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate* (margaret@firstpresathens.org)
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist* (jcoble@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Kim Ness, *Director of Youth Ministries* (kness@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Natalie Bishop, *Director of Children's Ministries* (natalie@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Elaine Johnson, *Director of Weekday School* (elaine@firstpresathens.org)
Mr. Roger Burbage, *Church Administrator* (rburbage@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Lucy Bell Johnson, *Administrative Assistant for Congregational Care & Membership* (lbell@firstpresathens.org)
Mr. Paulo Santos, *Communications Specialist* (paulo@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Jennifer Sunderlin, *Receptionist/Administrative Assistant* (frontdesk@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Angie Townsend, *Accounting Assistant* (angie@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Marcy Fabris, *Weekday School Administrative Assistant* (wds@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Rita Raines, *Nursery Coordinator*
Mrs. Charlotte Chromiak, *Children's Music Assistant* (charlotteposs@gmail.com)
Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, *Parish Nurse*